

Guard had again charged about five o'clock; to support these cuirassiers Kellermann's were despatched, as well as a part of the reserve cavalry.<sup>1</sup> To oppose these movements the British squares were again formed, and successfully repulsed them ; thousands of French cavalry were in this manner put *hoi\*s de combat* during the day. Unable to force the squares of the British infantry, the French cavalry showed greater courage when opposed to the Horse of the Allies, and many severe contests took place between them in front of and even among the squares.

During the temporary cessation which now took place the Duke began to concentrate his forces towards the centre, and the troops sent to Braine-la-Leude were now brought back. The assistance of the Prussians, as we have already stated, was expected at raid-day, and this induced Wellington to accept a battle, so that the British army had to bear the whole brunt of the action for a much longer period than was calculated. It was now past six o'clock, and they had been under fire for nearly seven hours. The Duke of Wellington however, never for a moment showed any anxiety as to the result of the battle. He knew his troops, and all that they would do under him and for him, and felt confident he should be able to maintain his position. The British army was not aware of the concerted approach of the Prussians, nor did their commander think it necessary to animate their exertions by telling them they were coining. Napoleon, on the contrary, in order to revive the already drooping spirits of his men, even of his favorite Guards, who had not as yet been engaged, sent Lab6doyere to inform them, as they were about to advance on our squares, that the corps of Grouchy had joined the right flank of the French Army. This intelligence deceived even Marshal Ney, and had a bad effect in the French ranks when the men learned that it was false.

<sup>1</sup> Bonaparte allows that this charge was made too soon, but that it was necessary to support it, and that the cuirassiers of Kellermann, 3000 in number, were consequently ordered forward to maintain the position. And he allows that the *grenadiers-a-cheval* and dragoons of the Guard, which were in reserve, advanced without orders, that he sent to recall them but, as they were already engaged, any retrograde movement would then have been dangerous. — *Editor of 1836 edition.*